THE RCC WEEKLY

ISSUE 39
DECEMBER 19, 2012

HOLIDAY POP-UP SHOP

Drop in and shop this Friday through Monday at the local **ArtROX! Holiday Pop Up Shop.**

All good things must end...and that's true for the ArtROX! Holiday Pop-Up Shop, now in its final week of pre-holiday sales. This week is your last chance to buy a unique holiday gift before the shop doors close on Christmas eve.

Week four of the ArtROX! Holiday Pop-Up Shop features local artists and craftspeople with something for everyone's budget. Your support of local independent artists is key to strengthening the community arts efforts.

Even the media attention of the Pop Up recommends making a special effort not to miss out on this unique - and fleeting - holiday shopping experience. Read about the store in the **Baystate Banner**, and the **Boston Globe**

Special Event on Sun, Dec 23, 1-2:30pm:

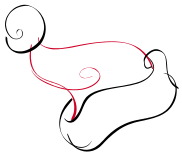
Stitch Up at the Pop Up: The intersection of Social Media, Art, History, Culture, and Economic Development. Join local "stitching" experts as they talk about community engagement and economic development in Dudley. Join the conversation, knitting optional. No knitting or stitching experience is required. Materials will be on hand to help those who are interested in learning. DJ spinning on site.

Visit www.discoverroxbury.org for more details.

Location: 2201 Washington Street, Dudley Square
Hours: Fri, 11am-2pm \ Sat, 11am-5pm \ Sun, 11am-5pm \ Mon, 11am-2pm .
Open thru Dec 24.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

On Monday, December 17th, over a hundred faculty and staff enjoyed the spirit of the season at the Annual Holiday Celebration which was held at the Reggie. There was plenty of time to enjoy the good food and good company.



A big THANK YOU to all who organized, cooked for and donated to the event.

SEASONS GREETINGS . . .

From
President Linda Turner:
My best wishes to all of you for a joyous holiday season.

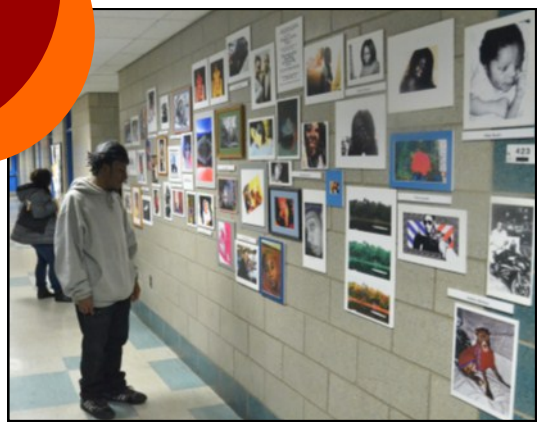
And from the RCC Weekly staff:
Thank you for your interest in and your support of The RCC Weekly for the last 12-plus months.

Happy Holidays to All
Brenda and Jacqueline

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

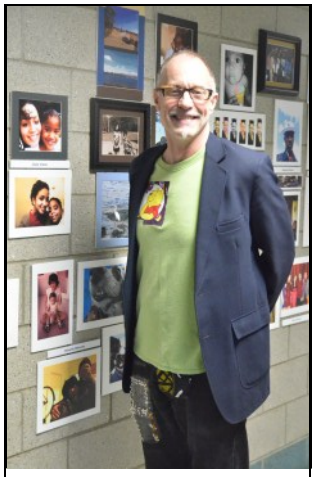
December 24: Grades Due (please note date change)
January 14: Faculty Institute
January 15: Classes begin

VISUAL ARTS FAIR



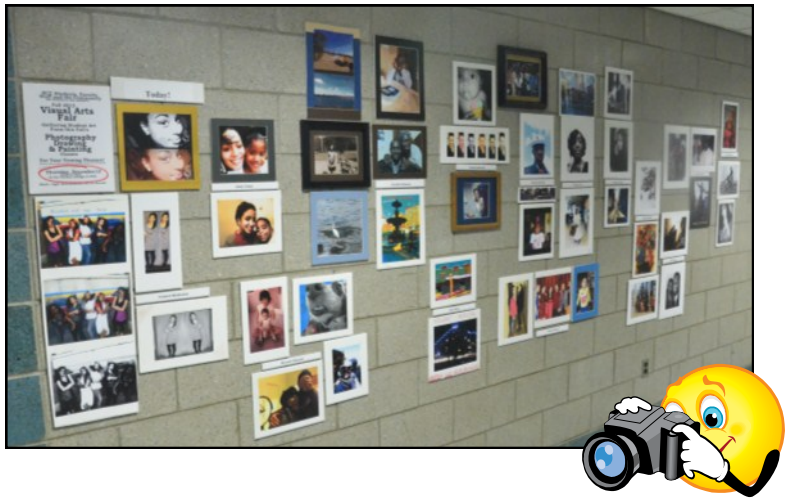
Visual Arts Fair Draws a Big Crowd

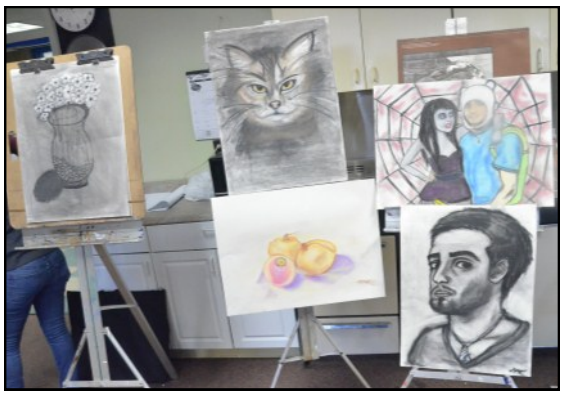
A large, high energy crowd attended RCC's End-of-Semester Visual Arts Fair held last Thursday afternoon in the Faculty Lounge. The show featured student art from this semester's photography, drawing, and painting classes, even a jewelry table from a student entrepreneur. The hungry crowd was treated to home-cooked rice dishes from several photography students/culinary artists, empanadas offered by the school, and many other munchies! Special thanks go to student chefs Stella Bell, Neslyn Matthew, and Marvel Shay and to the Liberal Arts Division for the tasty lunch.



Professor Bobby Stevens

According to photography professor, Bobby Stevens, several photos and several pieces of jewelry were sold during the fair, providing impetus to the idea of having student artists price their works and organize regular selling events at Roxbury Community College. Look for more on that front in the future.





HONORS PROGRAM UPDATE

On Monday, December 17, faculty staff and students gathered in the Media Arts Building to learn about the dynamic research projects pursued by RCC Honors students. There were presentations addressing the fields of Science, Literature, History, and Environmental Studies that inspired the audience.

Presenters:

- Jesse-James Austin, *Let the Sun Pay Your Bills* (Honors Colloquium, Prof. Latif)
- Sandra Eliane Baptista, *Poetry as a Weapon* (SSI 101, Dr. Clavelli)
- Peace Chinimere, Serge Doranzil and Matthew Honeycutt, Final *Creative Projects* (ENG 101 H, Prof. Gray)
- Tonya Wilkerson, *A New Biology I Laboratory Exercise* (SCI 103, Prof. Stieglitz)
- Share-Leigh Arneaud-Bernard, *The Psychological Impact on the Role of Black Women as Mothers* (ENG 225, Prof. Updike)
- Walter Flores, *Introduction to Bioinformatics* (SCI 103, Prof. Stieglitz)
- Benjamin Morris, *Using Site-Directed Mutagenesis to Investigate the Active and Inhibitory Sites in a Recombinant Enzyme* (SCI 207, Prof. Stieglitz)

For information about RCC's Honors Program , please contact Rhonda Gray, Coordinator of the Honors Program, at rgray@rcc.mass.edu.

CAREER SERVICES UPDATE

The RCC Interns of 2012 were feted and congratulated at a special gathering on Friday, December 7th. The overwhelming message of the celebration was that the internship career stepping stone cannot be excluded from the academic disciplines at RCC. This event comprised a powerful series of Poster and Oral Presentation by the interns encapsulating the crucial importance of the internship quotient of their college experience. In attendance were the site supervisors from the host employers as well as RCC faculty, staff and fellow students.

Natalie Falaise (Biological Science: Lab Animal Care) at Harvard School of Public Health

Those employers hosting RCC interns included: Harvard School of Public Health, U.S. Federal Food and Drug Administration, New England Cable Network Television, Boston Neighborhood Network Television, District court system of Waltham, and New England Baptist Hospital. The represented academic areas at RCC in which our internship students were majoring included: Information System Technology, Biological Science, Biotechnology, Criminal Justice, Business Management/ Administration, and Broadcast Media Technology.

Testimonials from RCC 2012 Interns:

"I urge anyone to consider an internship. Just run with it! Make a positive impression!"

"I discovered key things about myself, and about the career path I was exploring"

"I developed crucial communication and management skills"

"I was able to polish and learn new ways of utilizing computer software"

" The internship gave me the opportunity to understand the benefits- and drawbacks of a career in my field of interest"

"Before my internship, I thought the professionals in my field were gray, boring and only cared about working 9-5. I was wrong! They were compelling; colorful; dynamic; and animated"

"I have greatly improved on my inter-personal skills and my ability to delegate and ask for help when needed"

"I have polished my communication skills in terms of relaying information and responding to what is wanted or needed from me in the a workplace setting"

All testimonials are posted on RCC Career Development website.

Helene A. Djakpa (Biotechnology) at New England Baptist Hospital

HAPPY RETIREMENT!

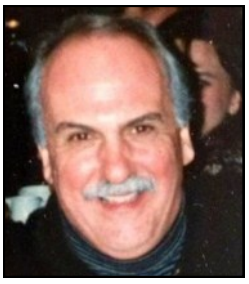
After many years of dedicated service to RCC, two staff members have recently decided to retire.

Freddy Gonzales, Director of Corporate and Community Education, will retire on Jan 11.

Georgann Jenkins, Coordinator of the Radiologic Technology program is retiring at the end of this semester.

We wish them both health and happiness in their retirement.

IN MEMORIAM



The College community was saddened to hear of the passing of Walter Silva on December 13th. He retired as Dean of Business Administration and a long-time faculty member in 2002. He was a popular professor, well-liked by his students and respected by all the faculty.

A funeral mass will be celebrated on Friday, January 4 at 10:30am at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 573 Washington St., Newton. In lieu of flowers, Walter's family requests that donations be made in his memory to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, 1500 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 200, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

The tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut was devastating. In the wake of the incidents on Friday, this reflection below was written by a friend of RCC. We believe it beautifully captures the pain many of us felt.

The author, Christopher Seeley is a young father of two and a school administrator in New York City.

December 14, 2012

I attended a funeral this morning and shared in the commemoration of a life full lived. A fellow parishioner at my Episcopal church died this week, having lived 96 of her 100 years as a member of this Upper West Side parish community. I did not know her well, but I remember seeing this well-loved woman on High Holy Days and whenever she and her faithful caregiver could make it to Sunday services. I know how much she meant to many people, as I have heard many stories of her work, ministry, and friendship. I wanted to attend her funeral and help to celebrate her life. One of the lessons I learned quite some time ago is that it is always right to attend the funeral - one ought to pay one's respects. Today I was honored to share in the mourning for a friend, and to celebrate her long and purposeful life.

At the same time that we commended the soul of our friend to the Creator and prepared to commit her body to the earth, an unspeakable horror was unfolding just 60 miles to the north in Newtown, CT. None of us knows all of the details yet, and we may never know the truth behind the tragedy that unfolded in that small New England village. What I do know is that twenty-six lives were taken in a short, violent fury of madness. Twenty children and six adults died today, long before any of them ought to have lived their final hours, long before they were able to experience the fullness of life. A school that had been a haven and a place of joy became a focal point of horror, and all those who lived through the ordeal will never be the same.

Many of us want to know what might have driven a young man to kill his mother and then drive to a school to destroy innocent lives. We feel the need to understand this person's madness and the cause of this manifestation of evil. But these questions will never result in real answers, and any rationale that might be constructed for us will never undo the pain and misery that too many families and all of us in this country experienced today. We don't need to understand what led one man to commit a most un-human act; we do need to understand how our nation continues to allow it to be possible for anyone to wield the power to take one life or twenty-six so quickly, so callously, so certainly.

It saddens me to know that again we have witnessed the shedding of innocent blood, the extinguishing of lives of potential and grace. My daughter continues to worry about her safety. She wants me to tell her that she needn't worry about being victimized by a gunman or any other unhinged, would-be criminal. I want to tell her that she is safe, but I know, just as she does, that she is not. None of us can predict what will happen to any of us at any point in time, but in our country the proliferation of guns ensures that none of us can rest easy and live without fear of being killed in a frightening instant. Today's mass killing is another unspeakable moment in the litany of tragedies we have spoken too often. Peducah, Kentucky. Columbine, Colorado. Tuscon, Arizona. Oak Creek, Wisconsin. Aurora, Colorado. Blacksburg, Virginia. Newtown, Connecticut. And there are too many other towns, far too many other victims and victimizers to remember, to mourn, and to

fear. Our President fought tears to remind us that we have been through this too many times. Yet a statement from the White House implored us to divert our attention away from any talk about gun control, saying that today is not the day for this conversation. I ask that if today is not the day for this conversation, then when is the right day? Surely we should not politicize and cheapen the lives of innocent people. But, the truth of the matter is that today is precisely the right day for this conversation, because everyday requires us to think about what it means to construct and to live in a civil society. Everyday is the day to consider what it takes for children and teachers to go to school without fear and to teach and learn and grow in a country that values life so much that it is willing to limit a misguided and often abused "right to keep and bear arms." I do not know what drove a young man to kill so many today, but I do know that had he not had such access to guns, twenty-six children and teachers might well be alive.

I also work in a school, and I know that each of us who works with children understands the trust that parents have in us, not just to educate their precious children, but to keep them safe and whole each day. I cannot imagine the horror that teachers and administrators felt as their lives and those of their students were in danger, but I do understand the impetus to save children, even if it means sacrificing oneself in the process. But this is not what teachers sign up to do; self-sacrifice is not one of the duties any teacher or administrator should take on. They deserve a better fate; our nation should demand more for them.

As I walked home at the end of an emotional and exhausting day, there was a flurry of activity at the intersection where I live. Fire trucks, police cars, and ambulances were parked at odd angles, their engines idling, their lights flashing. I didn't think the worst, though it would have been easy to assume that this disordered scene indicated that something had gone horribly wrong. I hurried down the long block, thinking of how I wanted to see my children, to hug them, to let them know how very precious they are. As I made my past the emergency vehicles, an EMT wheeled a young woman from a nearby building and ushered her to an awaiting ambulance. Behind them, another EMT carried a newborn baby, wrapped in blankets. I could see the child's tiny hand, reaching into the brisk December air as they followed the new mother and were rushed away to hospital. Into what kind of world, I wondered, has this child been born? How long will be the length of this child's days? Is our country prepared to do what we can – what we must – to keep this child and all others safe?

In the days ahead, in a small town in Connecticut, there are funerals that many must attend. There are courageous souls to commit to God and young, brutalized bodies to commit to the ground. Our collective grief is a sure sign that too many adults and children are gone from this earth too senselessly, too violently, too soon. Newtown, Connecticut will take time to bury its dead, but those are our dead, too. And so we must all rise together and honor them, to choose life, and to care for and to protect all who live. Our commitment to twenty-seven people in Connecticut and to one another must be to shine a light on the tragedy of insufficient mental health care and ineffective gun legislation so that all of us, especially children born today and in every tomorrow, might prosper and live.

Christopher A. Seeley

Items for "The Weekly"

If you have something of interest that you would like to share with the college community, please submit it (by Wednesday afternoon) to Jacqueline Lynch at jlynch1@rcc.mass.edu